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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/678,233	10/06/2003	Hiroki Uwai	032474.03	1572

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EXAMINER	
DASTOURI, MEHRDAD	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2623	

DATE MAILED: 09/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/678,233	UWAI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Mehrdad Dastouri	2623	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/789,829.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/6/2003.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.
>
> The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bloomberg et al., (U.S. 5,740,285).

As per claim 1, Bloomberg et al. (Bloomberg) teaches:

a picture image processing method for compressing a first picture image to a second picture image, the method including the steps of:

selecting a group of a first number of pixels from said first picture image (Figures 2A-B and 3A-B; Column 5, Lines 51-67, Column 6, Lines 1-24);

determining whether at least a second number of pixels of said group has a specified value (Value 1, one or more pixels ON), wherein said second number of pixels includes 2 or more pixels (Figures 2A-2C, 3A-3B, 5A, any of the rows of pixels shown on Figures 3A-3B, 5A; Column 6, Lines 39-58);

when at least one of said second number of pixels has said specified value setting a value of a pixel in said second picture image corresponding to said group of pixels equal a predetermined value (Column 6, Lines 59-67, Column 7, Lines 1-67).

As per claim 2, Bloomberg teaches:

wherein said second number of pixels is equal to said first number of pixels .

As per claim 3, Bloomberg teaches:

wherein said first picture image includes line data (Figure 2A; Column 5, Lines 57-63).

As per claim 4, Bloomberg teaches:

wherein said first number of pixels corresponds to a two-dimensional region of said first picture image (Figures 2A-B, 3A-B).

As per claim 5, Bloomberg teaches:

wherein said step of determining is performed by successively determining the values of pixels arranged in a horizontal direction (Figure 2A; Column 5, Lines 60-63).

As per claim 6, Kawashima teaches:

wherein said step of determining is performed by successively determining the values of pixels arranged in a vertical direction (Figure 2B; Column 5, Lines 64-66).

As per Claims 7 and 21, these claims recite substantially the same limitations as Claim 1 above and analogous remarks apply.

As per Claim 13, it recites generally the same limitations as Claims 1, 7, and 21, except for the following limitations, which Bloomberg teaches:

a memory (Figure 10, Memories 203 and 204); and

a controller to coupled to said memory and that uses said memory to compress first picture image to said second picture image...(rest of claim limitation cites features addressed in rejection of claim 1) (Figure 10, Controller 212).

As per Claims 8-12, 14-20, 22-26, they recite substantially the same limitations as Claims 2-6 above and analogous remarks apply.

Other prior art cited

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent 6,243,139 to Takahashi et al.;

U.S. Patent 5,177,797 to Takenaka et al.

Contact Information

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mehrdad Dastouri whose telephone number is (703) 305-2438. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amelia Au can be reached on (703) 308-6604. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MEHRDAD DASTOURI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Mehrdad Dastouri

Mehrdad Dastouri
Primary Examiner
Group Art Unit 2623
September 16, 2004